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General and complete disarmament

Letter dated 2 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit a communiqué (see annex) issued on 23 September 2003 by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the New Agenda Coalition countries (Brazil, Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden) following a meeting in which the Ministers reviewed progress on their joint initiatives, entitled: "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: a new agenda" and "Reduction of non-strategic nuclear weapons".

I would be grateful if you would kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 73.

(*Signed*) Ronaldo Mota **Sardenberg**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

03-53983 (E) 081003

Annex to the letter dated 2 October 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial declaration by the New Agenda Coalition during the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly, New York, 23 September 2003

1. The Foreign Ministers of Egypt, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and Brazil met during the fifty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly to review developments on nuclear disarmament and to renew their commitment to achieve a world free from nuclear weapons.

2. The Ministers paid tribute to the memory of Anna Lindh, Foreign Minister of Sweden, on the occasion of her sad passing away, and deplored the loss of a devoted colleague who had been a driving force in the common cause.

3. The Ministers expressed their deep concern at the lack of progress to date in the implementation of the 13 steps on nuclear disarmament to which all States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons agreed at the 2000 Review Conference.

4. The Ministers stressed that each article of the Treaty is binding on the respective States parties, at all times and in all circumstances, and that all States parties must be held fully accountable with respect to the strict compliance of their obligations under the Treaty, and reiterated that the implementation of undertakings therein on nuclear disarmament remains the imperative.

5. The Ministers recalled that a fundamental prerequisite for promoting nuclear non-proliferation is the continuous irreversible progress in nuclear arms reduction. In this context, they called upon the Russian Federation and the United States of America to make the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reductions ("the Moscow Treaty") irreversible and verifiable and to address non-operational warheads, thus making it a nuclear disarmament measure.

6. The Ministers stressed that the recent international debate on weapons of mass destruction has only highlighted that the sole guarantee against the use of any weapon of mass destruction anywhere, including nuclear weapons, is their total elimination and the assurance that they will never be used or produced again.

7. The Ministers reiterated their deep concern at emerging approaches to the broader role of nuclear weapons as part of security strategies, including rationalizations for the use of, and the development of new types of nuclear weapons.

8. The Ministers urged the international community to intensify its efforts to achieve universal adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. They called upon India, Israel and Pakistan to accede to the Treaty as non-nuclear-weapon States and to place their facilities under comprehensive safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency. They recalled the commitment of all States parties to the Treaty to promote the universality of the Treaty.

9. The Ministers expressed their deep concern with the announcement by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea of its intention to withdraw from the Treaty

and related developments. In this connection they called upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to reconsider and supported all efforts for an early, peaceful resolution of the situation, leading to the return of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to full compliance with the provisions of the Treaty.

10. The Ministers stressed that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) must be able to verify and ensure that nuclear facilities of the States parties to the Treaty are being used for peaceful purposes only, and called upon States to cooperate fully and immediately with IAEA in resolving issues arising from the implementation of their respective obligations towards the Agency.

11. The Ministers reaffirmed their conviction that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free zones on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among the States of the regions concerned enhances global and regional peace and security, strengthens the nuclear non-proliferation regime and contributes towards realizing the objective of nuclear disarmament, and in this regard they expressed their hope that more regions would follow this path.

12. The Ministers underlined the significance of the current review of the Treaty process to assess progress in implementation and to consider actions needed on nuclear disarmament. They stressed the importance that the third session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons submits substantive recommendations regarding nuclear disarmament, as well as on the matter of security assurances to the Review Conference.

13. The Ministers highlighted that multilateralism must remain at the forefront of all international security efforts and, with the purpose of contributing further to the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free world, stressed that their initiative will continue to be pursued with determination and announced their intention to submit two draft resolutions — entitled "Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: a new agenda" and "Reductions of non-strategic nuclear weapons" — to the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session.